operating the hand clamps and shifting certain levers connected with the gear train in a certain specified order. An automatic electrically operated gear-shifting mechanism has been designed, and is in process of construction, which will make these changes at the proper time, with no attention from the observer. H. D. CURTIS.

CORRECTION.

In my note on the unit of stellar distance in the August number of the *Publications* I regret that I inadvertently grouped the term *siriometer* with other terms which have been suggested as names for the distance corresponding to a parallax of one second of arc. The name *siriometer* was introduced by Professor C. V. L. CHARLIER, and is the distance equal to one million times the mean distance of the Sun from the Earth. It thus is almost identical with the term *Siriusweite* (the distance corresponding to a parallax of 0.2 seconds of arc); the parallax of a star at a distance of one *siriometer* would be equal to 0".206 +. It has the advantage that it is a definite and easily remembered multiple of the astronomical unit.

H. D. CURTIS.

REDISCOVERY OF WESTPHAL'S PERIODIC COMET.

The fourth comet of the year was discovered on September 26, 1913, by Mr. DELAVAN, at the La Plata Observatory, Argentina. This proves to be identical with WESTPHAL'S comet of 1852, which was expected to return to the neighborhood of the Earth this year, as the computed period was about sixty-one years. Only three comets of longer period than this have so far been observed at a second return to perihelion. These are HALLEY'S comet, PONS-BROOKS' comet (1812-1883), and OLBERS-BROOKS' comet (1815-1887). In 1852, WESTPHAL'S comet was, for a time, visible to the naked eye, though not a great comet. R. G. AITKEN.